

Claims:

Claims 32, 45, and 58 are hereby canceled.
Independent claims 1, 39, and 52 are currently amended.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A catheter for use in pelvic angiographic procedures comprising: a primary curve; a first tapered section; a secondary curve; and a second tapered section; and wherein the second tapered section has at least one curve.

2. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 formed from a group of plastics that includes polyurethane, polyethylene and polyether block amide copolymer.

3. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the second tapered section tapers from an inner diameter of 0.035 inches to 0.018 inches, and wherein the outer diameter tapers from 4 french to 3 french.

4. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the overall length of the catheter is between 76 cm and 87 cm.

5. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the length from the primary curve to the secondary curve is between 14 cm and 17 cm.

6. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the length from the secondary curve to the catheter tip is between 3 cm and 8 cm.

7. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the start of the first tapered section begins between 2.0 cm and 3.0 cm beyond the primary curve, and wherein the taper is from an inner diameter of 0.038 inches to 0.035 inches and an outer diameter of 5 french to 4 french.

8. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the start of the second tapered section begins between 0.5 cm and 1.5 cm from the secondary curve.

9. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the overall length of the second tapered section is between 2.0 cm and 8.0 cm.

10. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the radius of the primary curve is between 1.0 cm and 1.2 cm, and wherein the angle of said primary curve is within a range between 180 and 420 degrees.

11. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 10, wherein the angle of said primary curve is 360 degrees.

12. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the angle of the secondary curve is between 90 and 100 degrees from the shaft.

13. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the catheter is formed from a braided material.

14. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 13, wherein the braided material is from a group that includes stainless steel.

15. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the catheter is impregnated with a radioopaque material.

16. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 15, wherein the radioopaque material is from a group that includes tungsten.

17. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the first tapered portion is made from a group

of materials that include a polyether block amide copolymer.

18. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein a hydrophilic coating is employed.
19. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 18, wherein the hydrophilic coating coats at least a portion of the catheter from the origin of the first tapered section to the tip.
20. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, including a hub at its origin.
21. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 20, wherein the length from the origin of the hub to the primary curve is between 59 cm and 62 cm.
22. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 20, wherein the hub is 1.0 to 2.0 cm in length and has an inner luminal diameter of 0.038 inches.
23. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 20, wherein the hub consists of polyurethane.
24. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 20, wherein the hub has an inner luminal diameter of 0.038 inches.
25. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein a straightener extends on the outside of the catheter over a length between 2.0 cm and 3.0 cm.
26. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 25, wherein the straightener is made of polyurethane.
27. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 25, wherein the straightener is removable.
28. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section is formed from a flexible material.
29. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section is formed from an elastic material.
30. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section is formed from a soft material.
31. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section is formed from a germ-retarding material.
32. (Canceled) ~~(The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section has at least one curve.)~~
33. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the thickness of the walls of the second tapered section changes along its length.
34. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the length of the second tapered section is at least 0.5 cm.
35. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the length of the second tapered section is variable.
36. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section is detachable.
37. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section is formed separately from the rest of the catheter.
38. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1 or 20, wherein the second tapered section is formed separately from the rest of the catheter and includes attachment means for removably attaching to the secondary curve.

39. (Currently amended) A catheter including a tapered end section; wherein the tapered end section has at least one curve.

40. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a flexible material.

41. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section is formed from an elastic material.

42. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a soft material.

43. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a germ-retarding material.

44. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a braided material.

45. (Canceled) ~~(The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section has at least one curve.)~~

46. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the thickness of the wall of the tapered end section changes along its length.

47. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the length of the tapered end section is at least 0.5 cm.

48. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the length of the tapered end section is variable.

49. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section is detachable.

50. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section includes attachment means for removably attaching to a tip of the catheter.

51. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 39, wherein the tapered end section tapers from an inner diameter of 0.035 inches to 0.018 inches, and wherein the outer diameter tapers from 4 french to 3 french.

52. (Currently amended) A tapered end section for a catheter; wherein the tapered end section has at least one curve.

53. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 52, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a flexible material.

54. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 52, wherein the tapered end section is formed from an elastic material.

55. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 52, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a soft material.

56. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 52, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a germ-retarding material.

57. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 52, wherein the tapered end section is formed from a braided material.

58. (Canceled) ~~(The catheter of claim 52, wherein the tapered end section has at least one curve.)~~

59. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 52, wherein the thickness of the wall of the tapered end section changes along its length.